(a) whether it is a fact that the NHAI has some rules on the locations of petrol pumps along its highways;

(b) what are the general rules on this matter;

(c) whether it is a fact that some IOC petrol pumps were not allowed to be put up on NH-5 in West Godavari district and East Godavari district due to some differences;

(d) if so, the details of such problems; and

(e) what steps Government would take to review this matter in public interest?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Government have evolved norms for access to fuel stations along National Highways.

(c) to (e) Some of the proposals for providing access from the National Highways to new fuel stations including those of IOC could not be agreed to as the same were not conforming to the prescribed norms.

Complaints Against Welfare Commissioner's Office

760. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that complaints have been received regarding the working of the Welfare Commissioner's office responsible for Andhra region over the last two years;

(b) if so, the details of such problems;

(c) whether beedi workers have suffered due to such neglect and lack of focus; and

(d) what steps would be taken to streamline this office?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) to (d) Complaints regarding working of the Welfare Commissioner's office alleging financial and other irregularities by some officials have been received. These are inquired into and dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the relevant rules. Receipt of

complaints and consequent action, as deemed appropriate, on them is a continuous administrative process.

The expenditure in Andhra Pradesh region on welfare activities for Beedi workers during the last 3 years is as under;

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Particulars	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Health	401.03	373.84	597.46
Education	404.80	1097.77	1488.43
Housing	9.95	1.32	36.94
Grant-in-aid			60.80
TOTAL:	815.78	1472.93	2183.63

It can be seen therefrom that the expenditure on welfare activities of Beedi workers in Andhra Pradesh region has gone up during the last two years. It is ensured that the interest of Beedi workers is not affected.

ESI hospital for beedi workers

761. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to provide proper medical attention to beedi workers;

(b) if so, whether Government have any proposal to ask the ESIC hospitals to attend to beedi workers;

(c) the details of such plans by Government;

(d) by what date such efforts would commence; and

(e) the number of beedi workers who are getting such medical aid from ESIC or other hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) Several Welfare schemes to provide medical benefits to beedi Workers are being run by the Ministry of Labour and Employment.